



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor

Marc Miller, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IDNR Celebrates Earth Day in the Parks

5th annual event will be held across the state in April and May

SPRINGFIELD, IL – More than 900 students will visit Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) state parks in April and May for the fifth annual *Earth Day in the Parks* event. *Earth Day in the Parks* is an initiative of the IDNR to introduce students to environmental stewardship.

“*Earth Day in the Parks* is the perfect opportunity to get kids interested in the environment and teach them to be stewards of the natural wonders of our state. They can take part in meaningful activities, including planting trees and native wildflowers, removing exotic invasive plant species, building and installing bird boxes and a number of other activities,” said IDNR Director Marc Miller.

Sponsored by the IDNR Office of Strategic Services, Office of Land Management and the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF), *Earth Day in the Parks* offers students the opportunity to get outdoors and work in nature. Their hands-on experiences will lead them to develop a sense of ownership of the natural resources in our state while also increasing available wildlife habitat. Students and teachers are encouraged to return to the park to study the effects of their work.

A grant for the program was provided by the ICF. The list of *Earth Day in the Parks* sites, dates and participating schools are below.

<i>Earth Day in the Parks sites:</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Participating School</i>
Pyramid State Recreation Area 1562 Pyramid Park Rd. Pinckneyville (618) 357-2574	April 13	East Side Grade School McLeansboro Time: 10 am-noon

Mermet Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area	April 15	Maple Grove Elementary School Metropolis Time: 11 am-2 pm
1812 Grinnell Rd. Belknap (618) 524-5577		
Rock Island State Trail	April 15	Dunlap Grade School Dunlap Time: 9-10:30 am
311 E. Williams Wyoming (309) 695-2228		
Fort Massac State Park	April 19	Joppa High School Joppa Time: 11 am-2 pm
1308 E. 5 th St. Metropolis (618) 524-4712		
Castle Rock State Park	April 20	Rockford Environmental Science Academy Rockford Time: 10 am-noon
1365 W. Castle Rd. Oregon (815) 732-7329		
Clinton Lake State Recreation Area	April 20	Milligan Academy Decatur Time: 9-11 am
7251 Ranger Rd. DeWitt (217) 935-8722		
Jubilee College State Park	April 20	Brimfield Grade School & High School Brimfield Time: 9:30 am-2 pm
13921 W. Rte. 150 Brimfield (309) 446-3758		
Starved Rock State Park	April 20	Cornell Grade School Cornell Time: 10 am-1 pm
Rte.178 & 71 Utica (815) 667-4726		
Moraine View State Recreation Area	April 21	Tri-Point Junior High School Piper City Time: TBD
27374 Moraine View Park Rd LeRoy (309) 724-8032		
Volo Bog State Natural Area	April 21	Lake Park High School West Campus Roselle Time: 11 am - noon
28478 W. Brandenburg Rd. Ingleside (815) 344-1294		

Fox Ridge State Park 18175 State Park Rd. Charleston (217) 345-6416	April 26	St. Elmo Junior/Senior High School St. Elmo Time: 9:30 am-1:30 pm
Ferne Clyffe State Park Rte. 37 South Goreville (618) 995-2411	April 27	Goreville CUSD #1 Goreville Time: TBD
Weldon Springs State Park 4734 Weldon Springs Rd. Clinton (217) 935-2644	April 27	Lincoln Community High School Lincoln Time: 9:30 am-12:30 pm
IDNR Headquarters One Natural Resources Way Springfield (217) 524-4126	April 28	Washington-Monroe Elementary School Lincoln Time: 9:30-11:30 am
Tunnel Hill State Trail Highway 146 East Vienna (618) 658-2168	April 28	Vienna High School Vienna Time: TBD
Buffalo Rock State Park 1300 N. 27 th Rd. Ottawa (815) 433-2220	April 29	Waltham Elementary School Utica Time: 10am-noon
Eagle Creek State Recreation Area RR 1 Findlay (217) 756-8260	April 29	Jefferson Elementary School, Charleston; Mattoon Middle School, Mattoon; Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, Decatur Time: 9 am-2:30 pm
Wolf Creek State Park Area RR 1 Windsor (217) 459-2831	May 2	Jefferson Elementary School, Charleston Time: 9am-2:30pm
Beall Woods State Park 9285 Beall Woods Ave. Mt. Carmel (618) 298-2442	May 4	Red Hill High School Bridgeport Time: 9:30 am-1 pm

Eldon Hazlet State Recreation Area
20100 Hazlet Park Rd
Carlyle
(618) 594-3015

May 4

Carlyle High School, Carlyle;
Lebanon High School, Lebanon;
Mulberry Grove Junior High
School, Mulberry Grove;
Time: 9-11:30 am; 12:30-2:30 pm

Argyle Lake State Park
640 Argyle Park Road
Colchester
(309) 776-3422

May 5

Southeastern High School
Augustana
Time: 9-11:30 am

North Point Marina
701 N. Point Dr.
Winthrop Harbor
(847) 746-2845

May 12

Robert Abbott Middle School
Waukegan
Time: 9 am-noon

Cache River State Natural Area
30 Sunflower Ln.
Belknap
(618) 634-9678

May 12

Alternative Education Program
Anna
Time: TBD